

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01779 241415Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----241500Z 077089 /43

O R 241320Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0003
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1779

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, YO
SUBJECT: KRSKO

REF: BELGRADE 1761

1. FSFA ASST. SECY. BERNARDIC CALLED IN CHARGE MARCH 23 TO CONVEY DRAFT TEXT OF NOTE ON KRSKO (REFTEL). HE BEGAN BY PRAISING PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH AT UNITED NATIONS STRESSING THAT IT SAID "NEW AND ENCOURAGING THINGS WHICH PROVIDE BROAD NEW BASE FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND YUGOSLAVIA." HE UNDERLINED SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO HALTING NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND TO UNDERTAKING NEW EFFORT TO REACH MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE LEGITIMATE SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR FUELS WHILE CONTROLLING POISONOUS AND DANGEROUS ATOMIC WASTES. BERNARDIC STATED THAT HE CERTAIN "EVERYONE" IN GOY WOULD BE VERY PLEASED SEE THIS SINCE MULTILATERAL APPROACH MUCH THE BEST. IF NEW MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS NECESSARY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AGREED, U.S. CAN COUNT ON YUGOSLAVIA.

2. BERNARDIC SAID THAT IN ABSENCE OF NEW MULTILATERAL
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AGREEMENTS, WE MUST SEARCH FOR COMPROMISE TO SOLVE IMMEDIATE, PRESSING PROBLEM OF KRSKO. HE THEN HANDED OVER DRAFT TEXT, NOTING IT WAS IN FORM OF NOTE TO IAEA AS U.S. HAD SUGGESTED AND WAS DIVIDED INTO PREAMBLE AND OPERATIVE SECTIONS. HE STRESSED HE PERSONALLY AT OUR DISPOSAL AT MOMENT'S NOTICE INCLUDING SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ONCE WE HAD USG CONSENT AND COULD DISCUSS NOTE'S CONTENT.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CHARGE COULD MAKE NO COMMENT ON CONTENT UNTIL THEN.

3. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD IMMEDIATELY SUBMIT TEXT AND HOPED TO BE ABLE TO RETURN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS QUICKLY. AT THIS POINT HE WANTED ONLY TO BE SURE OF THINKING WHICH LIES BEHIND DRAFT TEXT. FOR EXAMPLE, BASED ON A COMMENT BY MR. BERNARDIC DURING HIS TALKS WITH VEST AND ARMITAGE, WE HAD SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF A POINT ABOUT SAFEGUARDS CONTINUING EVEN IF NPT NO LONGER IN FORCE. CHARGE NOT CERTAIN FORMULATION OF DRAFT TEXT MEETS OUR CONCERN IN THIS SENSE. IT ALSO APPEARED THAT THERE STILL SOME DIFFERENCES OVER CONSULTATION ON TRANSFERS AND REPROCESSING. WE THOUGHT WE HAD MET GOY CONCERN OVER ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY THIS SEEMED TO RAISE FOR THEM BY FORM WE SUGGESTED.

4. BERNARDIC RESPONDED THAT NPT LAPSING WAS HYPOTHETICAL ISSUE, THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING NOT WEAKENING NPT, THAT IT WOULD BE THE LAST TO LEAVE. HE SAID GOY IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE FIGHTING AGAINST PROLIFERATION AND THAT HE HAD TOLD VEST DURING DISCUSSIONS THAT TERMINATION OF NPT WOULD NOT RELEASE YUGOSLAVIA FROM ITS OBLIGATIONS ON KRSKO (CHARGE INTERJECTED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD BROADER THAN JUST KRSKO, BUT BERNARDIC RESPONDED HE MEANT KRSKO). BUT "NOT ONE COUNTRY IN 150" COULD BE ASKED OR WOULD AGREE TO ASSUME HYPOTHETICAL OBLIGATIONS TO A "CORPSE." AT SAME TIME THERE NOTHING AMBIGUOUS IN YUGOSLAV POSITION, WHEN CAME DOWN TO CONCRETE WORDING
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MATTER WOULD BE EASY AS THEY NOT HIDING ANYTHING.

5. BERNARDIC CHARACTERIZED CONSULTATION AS "HARDEST POINT IN YOUR AIDE MEMORE." HERE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL OBLIGATION AT A BILATERAL LEVEL. THEIR ENTIRE ARGUMENTATION DURING VEST TALKS WAS INTENDED TO EXPLAIN THAT THIS INFRINGED THEIR SOVERNIGNTY AND WOULD TIE THEIR HANDS IN DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. THIS WAS SOMETHING WHICH AS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY THEY CANNOT ACCEPT. THUS THEY WERE SURPRISED AT FORMULATION IN OUR MOST RECENT APPROACH. PERHAPS WHEN REACH NEW MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS, OBLIGATIONS COULD BE GREATER OR SMALLER. BUT GOY CONSIDERS THEIR OBLIGATION VERY CLEAR AND VERY FIRM ON RETRANSFER AND REPROCESSING. BERNARDIC WAS CERTAIN THIS MEETS THE DEMANDS OF THE USG.

6. IN CONCLUSION BERNARDIC RAISED AGAIN AND STRESSED DESIRE HEAR WASHINGTON'S VIEW ON WHAT GUARANTEE YUGOSLAVIA HAD THAT, IF AGREEMENT REACHED ON A TEXT, IN FUTURE THERE

WOULD NOT BE ADDITIONAL DEMANDS. HE NOT ASKING FOR "SUPER-GUARANTEE" BUT FELT THIS A LEGITIMATE AND FAIR QUESTION GIVEN CURRENT EXPERIENCE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO HEARING OUR ANSWER. HE PROTESTED "IN PASSING" AND IN MILD TERMS RECENT ARTICLES IN U.S. PRESS ABOUT KRSKO--TO WHICH CHARGE RESPONDED THAT WITH GOY'S EARLIER PUBLIC MENTION OF MEETING WITH MINIC, FSFA PRESS SPOKESMAN'S TWO STATEMENTS, ETC. WHETTING NEWSMENS' APPETITES THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SURPRISED.

7. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE TEXT GOY HAS NOW PROVIDED IS SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD. AS WE NOTED TO BERNARDIC, CENTRAL POINT IS THAT WE ARE NOW ENGAGED IN URGENT DIALOGUE TO TRY TO FIND SOLUTION WHICH MEETS BOTH SIDES' PRINCIPLE CONCERNS. WE SHOULD PERSERVERE IN OUR APPROACH BY QUICKLY COMING BACK TO YUGOSLAVS WITH OUR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON TEXT--NEXT WEEK IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. AT SAME TIME IT CLEAR CONFIDENTIAL

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TO US THAT THEY DUG IN ON QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS AND ARE VERY UNLIKELY TO BUDGE. IF WE ULTIMATELY UNABLE TO GET EVERYTHING WE WANT, WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF FACT THAT PUBLICATION OF EVEN PRESENT DRAFT AND SUPPORT FOR NEW MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS BY YUGOSLAVS--THE MAIN LEADER IN THIRD WORLD ON DISARMAMENT-- WOULD BE FIRST VISIBLE, TANGIBLE SUCCESS FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.
YORK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, EXPORT LICENSES, RADIOACTIVE WASTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA01779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770101-0248
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770328/aaaaaxxe.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e4e20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BELGRADE 1761
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3013746
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KRSKO
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, YO, US, (BERNARDIC, DRAGAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e4e20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009